



Oregon State University Forestry Cooperative Education Program

Connecting Classroom Education to Practical Work
Experience for the Professional Forest Management
Programs at Oregon State University

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OSU College of Forestry Departmental Structure

Departments

Degree Programs

Forest
Engineering, Resources
& Management



Forest Engineering



Forest Operations Mgmt



Forest Management

Forest Ecosystems & Society



Natural Resources



Recreation Resource Mgmt

Wood Science & Engineering



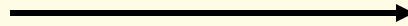
Wood Science & Technology

Departmental Undergraduate Program Structure

Degree Program

Target Cooperators

Forest
Engineering



Forest Industry
Forest Agencies

Forest Operations
Management



Forest Industry
Forest Consultants

Forest
Management



Forest Agencies
Forest Conservation

Current OSU COF Student Work Requirement

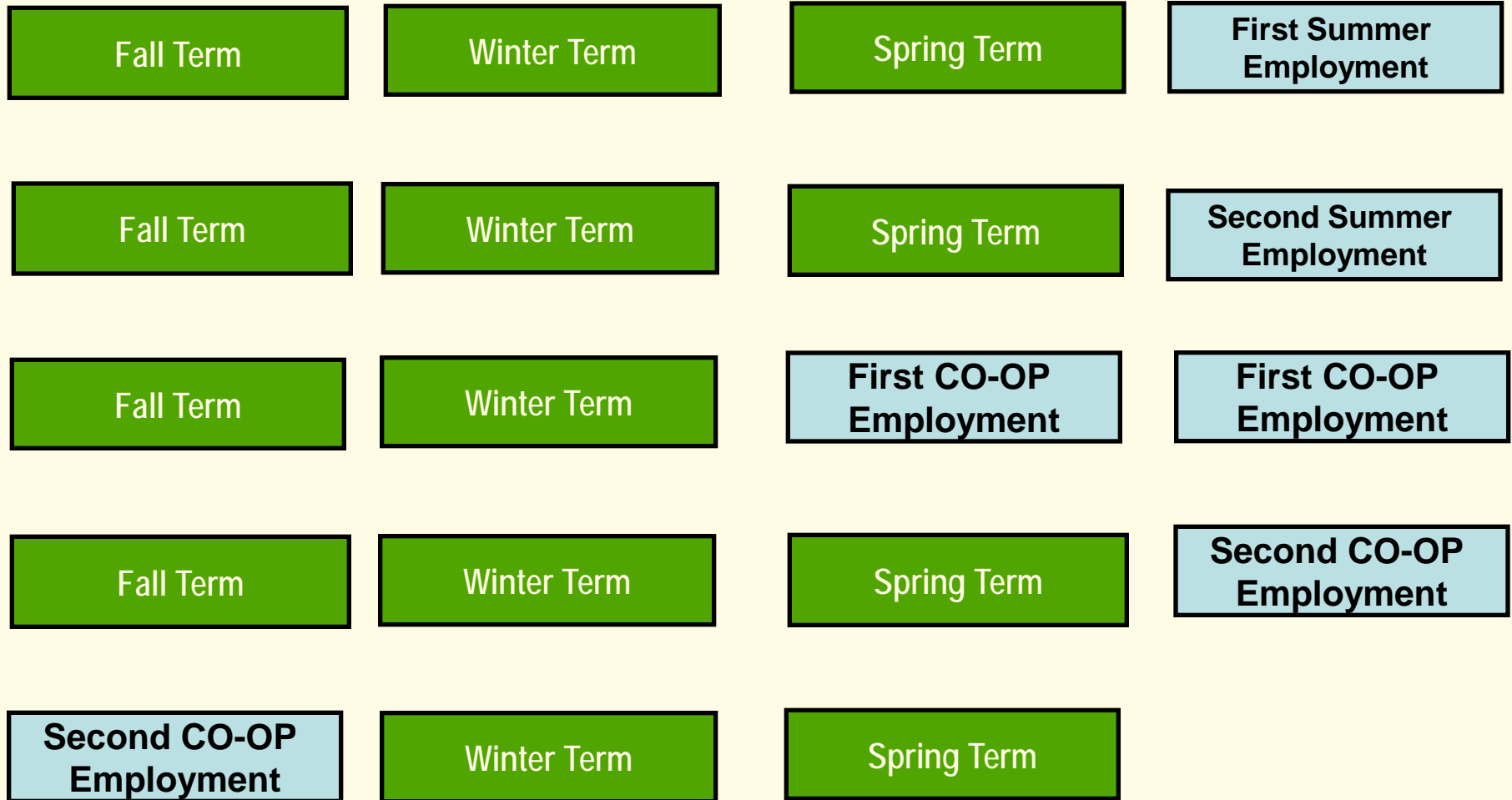
- **Current work requirement**
 - 6 months or 960 hours of forestry-related experience
 - Documented via employer evaluations of student performance
- **Typical job search/placement strategies**
 - Advising
 - Jobs website
 - Career Fair
 - Newsletters
 - Word of Mouth

Engineering Coop Education at OSU

- 110 Employers throughout the state
- 375 Interns placed in 2008
- 260 Interns placed in 2009
- Weyerhaeuser Company already a member/employer



Co-op Program Structure



Program Logistics

- Students apply for program entry
- Employers post jobs with learning outcomes
- Employers interview
- Students and employers rank each other
- Students placed
- Faculty oversight and assistance

Integration into Curricula

- Curricula designed to permit co-op experiences and co-op applicable learning outcomes at appropriate times
- Curricular decisions informed by Advisory Board
- Focus on communication and problem solving throughout curricula
- Students receive job readiness training through core-competency workshops
- Student deliverables include papers, posters and presentations

Benefits of Co-op Education to Students

- Work experience to build skills and résumé
- Exploration into potential career paths
- Increased structure and guidance in job search/ placement
- Opportunities for networking
- Increased communication and problem solving skills
- Increased professionalism and confidence
- Classroom experience more meaningful

Other Benefits of Co-op Education

- Challenge faculty to be more engaged in teaching that is relevant and timely
- Forces intentional design of curricula to be graduated and purposeful
- Develop and improve upon existing College/ stakeholder connections
 - Advisory Board
 - Public relations
 - Conversations have led to other opportunities
 - Social capital building

Preliminary Assessment Results

- 20 potential cooperators interviewed
 - Industry, Agency, NGOs, small family businesses
- Listening-centered approach
- Key themes from interviews
 - Technical skills
 - Expect graduated skill development
 - GPA as a baseline only
 - 4 C's and an A
 - Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creative Problem Solving, Conflict Negotiation
 - Attitude

Challenges and Goals for the Future

- Key Challenges
 - Employer preference for same student every summer to allow “grooming”
 - Employer preference for hiring student directly following last work term
 - Design of curricula to accommodate participating and non-participating students
 - Design of co-op program to accommodate transfer students
- Continued employer and student assessment
- Implementation for summer 2011

Co-op Presentation Night at UBC

Process Capability Studies

- Used to measure capability of each machine and the tolerance they are able to achieve
- Uses Statistical methodology

